

SUMMARY OF WALKING TOUR

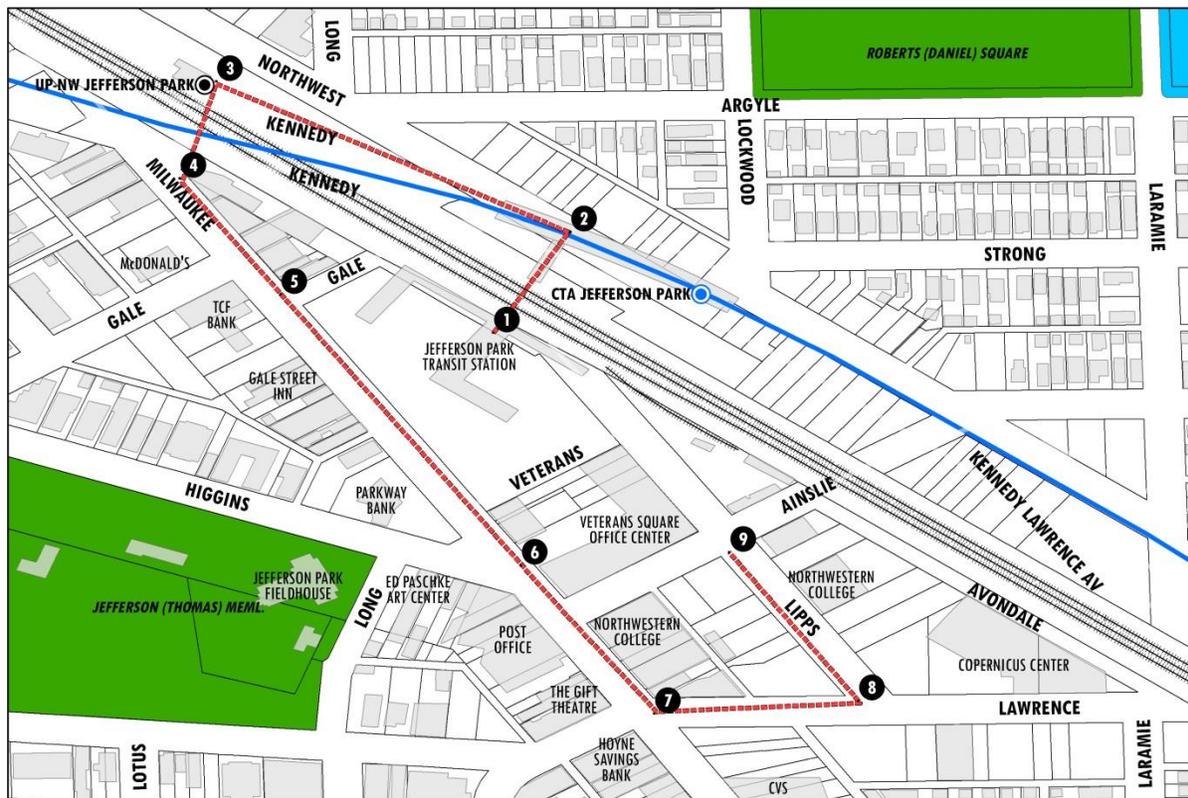
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE / RESIDENT & BUSINESS RESOURCE GROUPS

JEFFERSON PARK STATION AREA MASTER PLAN

June 1, 2017

GENERAL OVERVIEW

The Walking Tour was held from 6:00 – 7:30 pm on Thursday, June 1. All members of the Residents Resource Group, Business Resource Group and Technical Advisory Committee were invited to participate. The tour began at the main entry to the Transit Center (Stop 1 below) and continued through the Transit Center, along the Metra platform, through the viaduct under the rail tracks, and south along Milwaukee Ave to Lawrence Ave.



JEFFERSON PARK STATION AREA MASTER PLAN | WALKING TOUR MAP



SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS FROM WALKING TOUR PARTICIPANTS

STOP 1: BUS TERMINALS AND ENTRANCE TO CTA/METRA STATIONS

Assets	Challenges/Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CTA is planning the renovation of Station including bus loading area • Lots of use of Transit Station – one of the most efficient transfers between all transit providers • Second highest bus ridership in City (after 95th Street) • Create a clear line of site between station and businesses across Milwaukee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic functionality of Transit Center is currently designed to stay the same • People pass through as quickly as possible • Lots of jaywalking • Opportunity to carve out a more public space to replace landscaping triangle. • Possible to add retail or kiosks? • Double up bus loading to save space?

STOP 2: CTA BLUE LINE STATION INTERIOR

Assets	Challenges/Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lots of light • Station is cleaner • Rust needs to be removed/painted • Art program will bring energy and modern look 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail location is hidden too far back / bring forward in station for both CTA and Metra riders • Add signage for when trains are coming for both CTA and Metra

STOP 3: METRA STATION AND PLATFORM LOOKING EAST

Assets	Challenges/Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA accessible platform, but need to monitor ramps and station more / ramps too opaque • Lighting • Great view of Jeff Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate vendor at track level? • Need more visibility • Green spaces north of tracks look unkempt. Need better landscaping so that the area looks under control. • Condition of Metra improvements

STOP 4: VIADUCT BETWEEN NORTHWEST HWY & MILWAUKEE AVE. (BELOW METRA TRACKS)

Assets	Challenges/Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great to have viaduct to provide access under tracks • Used by both Metra and CTA riders, but you wouldn't know of the path unless you are from the area • Housing being built across from station on Northwest Highway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor condition, poor lighting • No signage to let people know of CTA service – rail and bus • No bike rack • RTA signage program could be used here • Long distance between here and Ainslie where next pedestrian access is located • Milwaukee Ave bridge is too narrow – need to add more space for peds and bikes. • Need to clear sidewalk on bridge from snow in the winter.

STOP 5: MILWAUKEE AVE/GALE ST. INTERSECTION BUS TURNAROUND

Assets	Challenges/Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ped crossing being added • Coffee shop opening • Alley being redone for pedestrians 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need room for bikes • Pedestrian crossings still an issue inside the Transit Center •

STOP 6: MILWAUKEE AVE/HIGGINS AVE INTERSECTION

Assets	Challenges/Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good retail buildings to reoccupy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move Veterans Memorial to a better spot • Possibility to remove u-turn from Milwaukee to Higgins toward the northwest • Opportunity to redevelop Northwestern College as an anchor tenant

STOP 7: MILWAUKEE AVE/LAWRENCE AVE INTERSECTION

Assets	Challenges/Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buildings on west side are beautiful • Lots of cultural uses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pedestrian crossings can be improved • Signage

STOP 8: LAWRENCE AVE/LIPPS AVE INTERSECTION

Assets	Challenges/Opportunities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largest vacant area near station • Location on Lawrence is good for retail – visibility to Lawrence plus close to Transit Center • Nice mix of architecture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity for real Chicago neighborhood center rather than Rosemont for tourists looking for something genuine • Opportunity for a “Town Square” type of environment • Retail/mixed use site • Demand for a hotel? • Relationship between site and surrounding uses • Possible public space as part of new development

STOP 9: LIPPS AND AINSLIE

Assets	Challenges
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire house can be redeveloped • Ainslie is pedestrian-friendly • Community garden across bridge • Murals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find a good use for the fire house • Need to connect the older buildings along Milwaukee to new development site to transit to Copernicus Center so it feels like one place • Improve Avondale – parking – walkway?

WALKING TOUR ATTENDEES

NAME	AFFILIATION
AGENCIES	
Ald. John Arena	45 th Ward Office
Ed Bannon	45 th Ward Office
Mike Benanzan	Resident
Allison Buchwach	Metra
Susana Ernst	Resident, Jefferson Park Forward, Northwest Chicago Historical Society
Benet Haller	City of Chicago, Department of Planning & Development
George Karzas	Gale Street Inn
Michelle Kerr	Resident, Gladstone Park Neighborhood Association, GP Garden Club
Loukas Kozonis	Kozonis Law
Cesar Lau	Jefferson Park Chamber of Commerce
Patrick Murphy	Resident
Joseph Osowski	CTA
Scott Presslak	Metra
Ryan Richter	Resident, Jefferson Park Forward
Heather Tabbert	RTA
Chuck Webber	Resident
Laura Wilkison	Metro Strategies

CONSULTANT TEAM	
Scott Goldstein	Teska Associates, Inc.
Michael Groh	Sam Schwartz Consulting
Laura Wilkison	Metro Strategies